

Resources and municipal examples of wetland management

City of Airdrie	<p>Great Spaces Plan</p> <p>The City of Airdrie's Great Spaces Plan is their comprehensive and integrated policy on open spaces. It sets the overall philosophy for planning open spaces within the municipality. The Plan strongly includes the theme of "ecological integrity", and focuses on protecting ecological systems including wetlands in the community.</p> <p>Click here to view the plan.</p>
City of Calgary	<p>Wetland Conservation Plan:</p> <p>The City of Calgary became one of the first municipalities in Canada to adopt a wetland conservation policy that provides procedures for the protection of priority urban wetlands with the passing of their Wetland Conservation Plan in 2004.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
City of Chestermere	<p>Wetland Policy</p> <p>The City of Chestermere passed a wetland policy in 2013 that introduces the importance of wetlands and the state of wetland management in Alberta, then includes an inventory of wetlands in the community and their current state. Developing a wetland inventory is a useful exercise to guide future planning and policy making with a full understanding of local wetlands.</p> <p>Click here to view the policy.</p>
City of Edmonton	<p>Wetland Task Force</p> <p>The City of Edmonton established a Wetlands Task Force in 2014 comprised of the Urban Development Institute, the Sierra Club of Canada, and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to explore how to better align decision making and look at the potential financial impacts of the province's new wetland policy.</p> <p>Wetlands Strategy</p> <p>Edmonton has also developed a comprehensive wetland strategy that outlines overarching commitments that guide the City's wetland conservation practices, and describes tools that can be used by the City to conserve wetlands. The Strategy is organized according to the following three goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure Edmonton's Wetlands as part of the city's ecological network. • Manage Edmonton's wetlands to maximize their ecological function. • Engage Edmontonians to support wetland conservation. <p>Click here to view Edmonton's Wetland Strategy.</p>

Town of Cochrane	<p>Wetlands and Riparian Areas Conservation and Management Plan</p> <p>The Town of Cochrane drafted a comprehensive management plan for wetlands and riparian areas in 2008 that provides a background on the subject, and outlines planning and development requirements in the municipality. The Town's strategic plan also states that the Town will investigate, monitor and implement environmental standards and codes of practice for wetland and watershed management.</p> <p>Click here to view the plan.</p>
Parkland County	<p>Environmental Conservation Plan</p> <p>The Parkland County Environmental Conservation Plan defines and classifies a series of environmentally sensitive areas in their boundaries, several of which include wetlands. Creating an inventory of sensitive areas like this is a valuable exercise that can assist municipalities in passing zoning bylaws or plans, or utilizing other tools to protect wetlands.</p> <p>Click here to view the plan.</p>
Strathcona County	<p>Wetland Conservation Policy</p> <p>Strathcona County has created a Wetland Conservation Policy that aims for no net loss of wetlands within the County's urban and rural areas. The no net loss policy's function is to balance the loss of wetlands through the rehabilitation of former degraded wetlands or enhancement of healthy, functioning wetlands. The policy requires proponents of developments to work through a strict series of mitigation activities set out by legislation in Alberta.</p> <p>Click here for more information. A policy summary can be found here.</p>

Additional Resources

Alberta NAWMP Partnership	<p>North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)</p> <p>The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international action plan to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. In Alberta, the focus of the plan has been on conserving and restoring wetland and upland habitats through the Alberta NAWMP Partnership. The Alberta NAWMP Partnership has also assembled a large library of informational resources including fact sheets, newsletters, scientific reports, and other publications on wetland conservation.</p> <p>NAWMP has identified objectives and potential projects around three components of wetlands stewardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save: Improve conservation of existing wetlands through increasing alignment between provincial legislation and municipal decision making.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix: Restore drained or altered wetlands through identifying wetland restoration priority areas and enabling municipalities to be wetland restoration leaders. • Learn: Build an education/information hub through a community of practice. <p>Click here to see the Alberta NAWMP Partnership website.</p>
Canadian Geoscience Network	<p>Waterscapes</p> <p>The Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN) the education arm of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences that works to increase awareness of geoscience across the country. CGEN has developed informational materials on several “waterscapes” in Canada that include informational posters, graphics, and explanations about how wetlands and other water systems work.</p> <p>Click here to view the Waterscapes page, and click here to visit the CGEN website.</p>
Ducks Unlimited Canada	<p>Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)</p> <p>Ducks Unlimited Canada is a registered charity focused on wetland conservation in Canada. Their website contains valuable information about what wetlands are and tools that can be used to conserve them. Ducks Unlimited also creates scientific reports on wetlands that can help inform and assist municipalities.</p> <p>DUC is currently developing a wetland extension program to assist municipalities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information on municipal wetland assets and the latest science on wetland values. • Providing input on municipal development plans and land-use bylaws. • Identifying wetland restoration needs and working with partners to promote wetland restoration and protection in the local area. <p>Click here to see the Ducks Unlimited Canada website.</p>
Environment Canada	<p>Wetlands Information</p> <p>The Government of Canada has assembled educational resources about water sources including wetlands on their website. The site includes an introduction to wetlands, and information about the impacts of wetlands on wildlife, climate change, and groundwater. It also includes a brief introduction to wetland conservation programs in Canada.</p> <p>Click here to see the Environment Canada Wetlands site.</p>
Government of Alberta	<p>Alberta's Wetland Policy</p> <p>The Government of Alberta began implementing a new <i>Alberta Wetland Policy</i> in 2014, which was developed with input from AUMA. The new Policy is aimed to conserve, restore, protect, and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain the benefits they provide to the environment, society,</p>

	<p>and economy. It provides the direction and tools required for wetland management across the province.</p> <p>This policy splits the province into two sections: the White Area, which is the settled portion of the province containing roughly 2/3 of Alberta's wetlands, and the Green Area, which consists of crown lands. As of June 2015, all wetland related <i>Water Act</i> and <i>Public Lands Act</i> applications in the White Area must be submitted in accordance with the new <i>Alberta Water Policy</i>. This will expand to applications in the Green Area in September 2015.</p> <p>In addition, the province is in the process of creating a new Qualified Wetland Science Practitioner (QWSP) Program for wetland assessment specialists. Requirements and practice standards continue to be developed, but the province released an interim practitioner program on June 1, 2015.</p> <p>Click here to learn more about the <i>Alberta Wetland Policy</i> and the implementation process.</p> <p>Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) The WRRP goals are to enhance the ability of watersheds to mitigate the effects of flooding and drought, restore degraded watershed areas to strengthen communities' ability to withstand future flooding or droughts, and to promote ongoing stewardship and preservation of watersheds. Eligible projects must promote the long-term ability of watersheds to mitigate effects of flood and drought events, such as riparian and/or wetland enhancements, floodplain/river improvements, conservation initiatives, and watershed resiliency education and outreach.</p> <p>Click here for more information.</p>
University of Alberta – Alberta Land Institute	<p>Alberta's Living Laboratory Wetlands Project The Alberta Land Institute at the University of Alberta is currently undergoing a multi-year, interdisciplinary research project examining the science and economics of wetlands restoration in Alberta. Findings of this project will help inform policymakers and developers as they work with Alberta's new Wetlands Policy.</p> <p>Click here to see more information on the project.</p>
Wetlands Alberta	<p>Wetlands Alberta Website The Wetlands Alberta website is a joint partnership between the Alberta NAWMP Partnership, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Government of Alberta that provides information to help conserve and protect wetlands across the province. The site is a good source of information about what wetlands are, tools that can be used to conserve them, and current policies and legislation in place.</p> <p>Click here to see the Wetlands Alberta website.</p>

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